

**Summary for projects submitted to the Appropriations Committee for the FY10  
Appropriations Cycle**

**The proposed recipient:** Girl Scouts of USA

**Address of the recipient:** 420 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10018

**The amount of the request:** \$1,500,000

**Purpose of the project and why it is a good use of taxpayer funds:** Being able to successfully navigate the turbulent waters of finance has never been more important. A study by the Jumpstart Coalition states financial literacy among high school seniors is on the decline, with respondents accurately answering only 48.3 percent of finance-related questions. With teens spending expected to grow to as much as \$209 billion by 2011, it is imperative that they fully understand how to save and invest their finances responsibly.

A higher percentage of girls are attending college and must find ways to underwrite their college education. Most women live longer and earn less than men, single women are more likely to become first-time homeowners than single men, and more women are responsible for their own financial self-sufficiency at one point or another in their lives. Education and training can provide crucial life skills and tools to help girls control their financial resources. To be successful and sustainable, financial education must begin early, continue throughout elementary and secondary education and be relevant. After-school and community-based programs can be effective in complementing formal education, and helping girls learn money management in practical settings.

This funding will be used to create a comprehensive, effective and universal financial literacy program for delivery to 2.6 million Girl Scouts of all ages. Federal funds could support planning activities; research to ensure that this program is age-appropriate, effective and evidence based; develop and create materials for the six levels of Girl Scouting; develop training materials for volunteers; develop of web-based materials; Spanish language translation; and other activities to ensure that this program is successful.